(c) if so, the reasons therefor and action plan of Government to speed up developmental activity and fill up all the senior posts in the Zone to make it a get-going?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. All sanctioned works are progressing satisfactorily.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Double-stack container trains

449. SHRI B.J. PANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways plan to run double-stack container trains;

(b) if so, the routes where these trains would be introduced;

(c) whether this project would be undertaken with external help; if so, details thereof; and

(d) what is the percentage of savings in haulage and waiting time under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) to (d) A feasibility study is in progress for the movements of double-stack containers to and from the ports on the West Coast namely Kandla, Pipavav and Mundra. The Report has not yet been submitted.

Use of old unused tracks

450. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways engages in using unused tracks and narrow tracks which can be brought to use either by using them for gauge conversion projects or if they are old and rusted they can be sent for polishing for reuse;

(b) if so, the length of tracks that were used in such a manner;

(c) if not, whether Government have plans to introduce the use of old unused tracks in this manner which will eventually save the Railways crores of rupees; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) and (b) The materials, released from main line track renewals which still have residual service life, are re-used for laying track in gauge conversion/secondary renewal etc., where it can meet the requirement.

During the current financial year, till 31.10.2003 a total of 690 kms. has been renewed with used material released from track.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Tardy implementation of projects in Railways

451. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have been found by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to have a tardy record in the implementation of projects leading to huge cost and time overrun;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure the timely completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources. There is a huge shelf of on-going projects with limited resources. In the absence of matching availability of funds, time and cost overrun are not feasible to be evaluated.

(c) The projects are progressing as per availability of resources on year to year basis. For expeditious completion of these projects, new initiatives such as private/public partnership, State funding, funding from Ministry of Defence and additional budgetary support for National projects have been taken.

Allocation for rail projects in U.P.

452. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :